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January 21st.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Twenty-nine members present.

The following papers were presented for publication :

Descriptions of new Plants from Texas, by S. B. Buckley.

On the uniformity of relative characters between allied species of European and American Trees, by Thomas Meehan.

Notice of a new species of Hemilepidotus, by Theo. Gill.

On the subfamily of Argentininæ, by Theo. Gill.

Notes on the Sciænoids of California, by Theo. Gill.

Appendix to the Synopsis of the subfamily of Percinæ, by Theo. Gill.

Mr. Cassin gave an account of a flock of crows, lost in a fog whilst passing over the city early on Sunday morning, the 12th inst.

Mr. Haldeman stated that he had frequently noticed the bald eagle dive for fish in the Susquehanna, when it could not procure its food by robbing the fish hawk.

Dr. Rogers made some remarks on the influence upon the health of communities from the thawing of snow in the streets by means of salt, exposing what he considered to be the fallacies of the common prejudices on the subject.

January 28th.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Twenty-four members present.

On report of the respective Committees, the following papers were ordered to be published in the Proceedings :

Notes on some of the American Ash Trees, (*Fraxinus*), with descriptions of new Species.

BY S. B. EUCKLEY.

The great accuracy of the plates in Michaux's *Sylva* is admitted by all who have seen both them and the trees whose portions are there represented. That the text contains a few errors is well known, but the figures are true to nature and correctly represent the object described. The wonder is that a work published at that early day, in the infancy of botany, should so well and truthfully describe our forest trees.

It is supposed by some botanists that the fruit in the plate of *Fraxinus americana* is that of the green ash, (*F. viridis*), or that the fruit of these two species of ash has been substituted the one for the other by mistake. The original proof-plates of the *Sylva* are in the Library of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia, in which the figure of the white ash differs little from the one in the last edition. Had there been an error, it would have probably been corrected, as several editions of the *Sylva* passed under the eye of Michaux; nor does the fruit of the white ash differ from his description of that species. In his account of the green ash, he states that "*its seeds are only half as large as those of the white ash, but similar in form*"; and also, in describing *F. pubescens*, he remarks that "*its seeds are shorter than those of F. americana, but similar in form and arrangement*." These statements in the text agree perfectly with his pictures of these species.

[Jan.